

Helianthus deserticola Heiser (1961)**DESERT SUNFLOWER****FAMILY:** *Asteraceae*, the sunflower family.**SYNONYMS:** *Helianthus anomalus* (?)**STATUS:****Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G2G3Q S2****USFWS/ESA:** none. **STATE OF NEVADA:** none. **BLM:** none. **USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** watch list.**POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA):** 21 occurrences mapped; total estimated individuals 25,000+, total estimated area 77.3+ ha (191+ ac). **TREND:** unknown.**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA):** No summary available (see references).**INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA):** Not yet systematically surveyed in Nevada. Most recent entered survey 2000, average year of last survey 1981. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **0-5 yrs:** 14.3%; **11-20 yrs:** 47.6%; **21-30 yrs:** 28.6%; **51+ yrs or unknown:** 9.5%.**LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA)** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Department of Defense, Nevada state lands, Native American lands, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, private lands.**RANGE:** Churchill, Clark, Lyon (?), and Mineral counties, Nevada; also in AZ and UT. The western Nevada populations are disjunct from the remainder of the species, and therefore potentially distinct. Maximum Nevada **range dimension** **547.1 km (339.9 mi)** excluding most disjunct record. **Type specimen** collected in Washington County, Utah.**ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA):** 1345-4880 feet (410-1487 meters).**HABITAT (NEVADA):** Dry, open, deep, loose sandy soils of aeolian deposits, vegetated dunes, and dune skirt areas, on flats and gentle slopes of all aspects, generally in alkaline areas, often thriving on road berms and other stabilized disturbances within such soils, with *Psoralea polydenia*, *Tetradymia tetrameres*, *T. glabrata*, *Sarcobatus baileyi*, *S. vermiculatus*, *Atriplex canescens*, *Achnatherum hymenoides*, *Eriogonum nummular*, *Tiquilia nuttallii*, *Lupinus pusillus intermontanus*, *Abronia* spp., etc. Dependent on sand dunes or deep sand in Nevada.**PHENOLOGY:** flowering late-spring to summer, Appears to flower opportunistically, beginning in late spring, and continuing as summer rains permit. Range of most frequent **survey months:** May-July.**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** annual.**DESCRIPTION:** An annual herb, usually about 4 dm tall, that produces showy flower heads with yellow rays surrounding a purplish disk. Blooms May-July.**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Nevada Natural Heritage Program images web page (1998-present) and slide collection (1986-present).**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Cronquist (1994), Welsh (1979).**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Welsh et al. (1993).**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**Heiser, C. B. 1961. A new annual sunflower, *Helianthus deserticolus*, from the southwestern United States. *Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science* 70: 209-212.Tiehm, A. 1989. Survey for *Oryctes nevadensis*, Churchill County, Nevada. Reno, Nevada: Environmental Management Associates. 8 pages.**OF FURTHER INTEREST:** Synonymized under *H. anomalus* by Cronquist (1994). Considered distinct molecularly and morphologically from *H. anomalus* by a current expert on North American sunflowers, Loren Rieseberg. Plants from west-central Nevada may represent an unnamed taxon, and should be compared with the type material from Utah.